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The Shtaroth of Merton College.—(JEWISH QUARTERLY REVIEW, II., p. 527). The second of the *Shtaroth of Merton College*, edited by Dr. Neubauer, is at first sight so obscure, and also, in consequence of some misprints, so unintelligible, that it can be translated only after closer examination. Literally it may be rendered somewhat as follows :—

I, the undersigned, fully acknowledge herewith that I received £50 from William de Watville, through Maestre Walther de Merton, on a debt of £58, which the said William owed to me, according to a bill of £58 drawn in the names of the said William and myself. The part of this bill bearing the seal is in the Record Office of London. Its instalments are to be paid in five years, on the following terms of payment, to-wit, at Easter of the 29th year of reign of King Henry, the son of King John, £6, and at Michaelmas next £6 ; in the following three years £12 yearly, at the above-mentioned dates, and in the fifth year £10 more, at the aforesaid periods. As to the last £8, I agreed with the said William and his heirs that he should pay to me and to my heirs 40s. at every Michaelmas term for four years, the first instalment of which would begin at Michaelmas of the thirtieth year of the reign. On account of this £8, the bill for the amount of £58 has been left with me under the condition that as soon as the said William or his heirs draw a bill on me and my heirs (read ל' for ל') for those £8 payable in four years, or on the remainder of the said £8, my duty (read נ' for נ) and that of my heirs will be to return the bill of £58 cancelled to the said William or his heirs or their attorney. In case he should not attend to my wishes with regard to the said £8 at the above-mentioned dates, then I and my heirs shall be authorised to force by law the said William and his heirs by means of the said bill of £58 to pay for all the past years of the said £8 (read מ'הנ'קוב' and of the interests increased by delay of the instalments, with the condition, however, that they do not run up interests on the said 40s. one quarter after the term. I testify besides that neither the said Walther, nor one of his ancestors ever owed anything to me, and that neither I nor my heirs can make any claim against the said Walther and his heirs from the creation of the world to Michaelmas of the said thirtieth year of reign. What I acknowledge, I seal.

AARON B. ABRAHAM.

Aaron herewith testifies to have received only £50, and to have come to an understanding in reference to the remaining £8, that they should be paid in four terms. In the event of such terms not being kept, the whole sum or the unpaid part thereof to be recoverable

together with interest, but that the amount due at each term should remain free of interest for a quarter of a year.

און in the fourth and fifth Shtar is here in the midst of the Hebrew words of this legal document, not *an* the English *one* (p. 529, note 7), which would be meaningless next to שום, and would also involve the omission of an indispensable substantive, but, by the side of חותם, the bill, and חתיכה, the past instrument, expresses every other legal acknowledgment of debt, which is indicated by און, power.

In the fifth Shtar שוישורש is, of course, the phonetic transcription of "successors," and refers to the legal successors of the scholars of Merton.

DAVID KAUFMANN.
